

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

June 30, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to you in strong support of the state of Minnesota's request for a Major Disaster Declaration under the Stafford Act to assist communities that are working to recover from severe weather this spring including flooding due to excessive snowmelt and rain. These natural disaster events have caused significant damage in our state, and we ask that you quickly grant approval for federal government disaster assistance.

Minnesota experienced record winter snowfalls and a colder than normal March leading to large snowpacks. In April, a rapid snow melt combined with heavy and continued precipitation caused high water and flooding throughout the state. Areas of the Mississippi River reached its highest water level in over twenty years, and the St. Croix River rose to its major flood stage. Flood conditions have also caused damage in northern and western Minnesota including along the Red River Valley.

Joint federal and state emergency management teams have conducted preliminary damage assessments and have determined that the losses meet the threshold for federal assistance under the Stafford Act through a Major Disaster Declaration. Governor Walz has submitted an official request for disaster assistance for the period of April 11 through April 30, 2023. The request covers 35 counties and the Prairie Island Indian Community. The letter was dated June 28, 2023.

The resiliency of Minnesotans during times of natural disaster has been shown time and time again. When flood waters rise and homes are damaged, volunteers and neighbors are quick to fill sandbags, clean up debris, and lend a hand to those in need. Impacted communities will repair the damage and rebuild following these disasters, but timely federal assistance will speed up the recovery effort.

We strongly support the state of Minnesota's request for a Major Disaster Declaration under the Stafford Act and ask that you grant its approval to assist communities that are working to recover from severe weather this spring.

Sincerely,



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Tom Emmer
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Brad Finstad
Member of Congress



Dean Phillips
Member of Congress



Michelle Fischbach
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress